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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Letter dated 14 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith China's position paper on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see annex).[1]

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Liu Jieyi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

[1] The annex is being circulated in Chinese and English only.

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 14 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and English]

Position paper of China on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in September 2015, laid out the common vision of all countries to seek win-win cooperation and development for all. The Summit adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides guidance for national development and international development cooperation for the next 15 years, and serves as a milestone in the global development process.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the core task in the area of development. While faced with the sluggish recovery of the world economy, a widening development gap between the North and the South and dwindling momentum in international development cooperation, the international community is also confronted with challenges such as the refugee crisis, terrorism, public health threats and climate change. All countries should work together to translate the commitments made by leaders into concrete actions by earnestly promoting and implementing the 2030 Agenda. Development, which will serve as a means to address various global challenges, speed up economic transformation and upgrading, map out a course for equitable, open, comprehensive and innovation-driven sustainable development, thereby jointly increasing the well-being of all humankind.

I. General principles

The principle of peaceful development — Countries should safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, commit to peaceful coexistence, build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation and foster a peaceful, stable and harmonious regional and international environment for global development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The principle of win-win cooperation — Countries should foster the notion of a community of shared interests, establish holistic partnerships, support broad participation by and realization of synergy between all Governments, private sectors entities, civil society and international organizations in global development cooperation. All countries should participate in global development on an equal footing, jointly devise development principles, and jointly share in the fruits of development.

The principle of comprehensive coordination — It is essential to make development serve the people and put the people first. Countries should give priority to poverty eradication and people's livelihoods, thereby safeguarding social equity and justice. They should firmly implement the concept of sustainable development, promote economic, social and environmental development in a

balanced way, and achieve harmony between individuals and society and between humankind and nature.

The principle of inclusiveness and openness — Countries should commit to achieving inclusive economic growth and building an inclusive society, where development gains are shared by all and no one is left behind. Concerted efforts should be made to build an open world economy and increase the representation and voice of developing countries in the international economic governance system.

The principle of sovereignty and voluntary action — Reaffirming that every country has full sovereignty over its own economic development and its implementation of the 2030 Agenda, countries should be encouraged to formulate their domestic development strategies and take measures to implement the 2030 Agenda in accordance with their national conditions and respective characteristics. It is important that countries respect the choice of development path made by each other and that they draw upon the development experience of each other.

The principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" — Having the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a common objective, the task of implementation should be carried out in accordance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", as well as the specific conditions and capabilities of each country, so that each country can contribute to the global implementation process.

II. Key areas and priorities

Eradicating poverty and hunger — Poverty is a primary challenge to the international community and a major threat to sustainable development. Poverty eradication should be prominently positioned in national development strategies, and targeted measures should be taken to alleviate and eliminate poverty. Significant efforts should also be made to enhance agricultural production capacities and food security, thereby laying a solid foundation for poverty eradication.

Maintaining economic growth — Economic growth is the fundamental way to eradicate poverty and improve people's livelihoods. Countries should formulate economic policies suited to their national conditions, promote economic restructuring and upgrading and change unsustainable consumption and production patterns. It is important to implement innovation-driven development strategies, strengthen technological innovation and upgrading and generate momentum for sustainable, healthy and stable economic growth.

Advancing industrialization — It is important to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, informatization, urbanization and agricultural modernization, to inject impetus into the coordination of development between urban and rural areas and between the three dimensions of sustainable development. Advanced manufacturing and emerging industries should be developed along with the upgrading of traditional industries.

Improving social security and social services — It is important to improve the public service system, including employment, education and health care, and to ensure equal access to basic public services. Governments should pursue a more proactive employment policy, provide policy support for new businesses and encourage job creation by business start-ups. It is also essential to guarantee the

right to education for all, including vulnerable groups, improve the quality of education and ensure that everyone has the opportunity for lifelong learning. Efforts should also be made to provide minimum social protection and expand the coverage of social security. Basic health-care systems should be established and improved to make basic medical and health services more equitable and accessible, which is vital to safeguarding dignity of life for all.

Safeguarding equity and justice — Improving people's well-being and promoting comprehensive human development should be the starting point and objective of development. Countries should put people first, strive to eradicate inequality of opportunity, distribution and institutions and ensure that development gains are fairly shared by all. Efforts should also be made to advance gender equality, empower women in all aspects, and earnestly strengthen protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, minors and the disabled.

Protecting the environment — Public awareness should be raised concerning ecological conservation that features respect for, conformity with and the protection of nature. It is imperative to step up environmental protection efforts, promote comprehensive prevention and control of air, water and soil pollution, focus on improving environmental quality, and to form a system of integrated environmental governance by Governments, enterprises and the public sector. Efforts should be made to strengthen the protection and recovery of natural ecological systems, preserve biological diversity, promote sustainable management of forests, protect the marine environment and build ecological protective barriers.

Addressing climate change — The international community should address climate change and build a global climate governance system that is fair, equitable and centred on win-win cooperation, in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, equity and respective capabilities. Countries should integrate the addressing of climate change into their national development strategies, attach equal importance to mitigation and adaptation, increase their capabilities to accommodate climate change and strengthen multilateral and bilateral dialogue and cooperation with respect to climate change.

Efficiently utilizing resources — It is important to promote energy conservation, develop energy-saving technologies and products and establish effective mechanisms to improve resource efficiency. A modernized energy system that is clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient should be established to promote sustainable energy. Efforts should also be made to develop circular economies, cultivate awareness of green consumption and promote thrifty lifestyles. Countries should promote water conservation through rainwater and flood utilization, water reuse and seawater desalination.

Improving national governance — Countries should advance law-based governance, bring economic and social development in line with the rule of law and advance the modernization of governance systems and capabilities. It is imperative to innovate the concept of governance, strengthen the awareness of rule of law and a sense of service and improve methods of governance by taking full advantage of modern technologies. Efforts should be made to build a social governance system by the people and for the people.

III. Means of implementation

Strengthening capacity-building — Each country should take primary responsibility for its development. It is important to align national development strategies with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to make them mutually reinforcing. Countries should formulate development-oriented policies, improve institution-building, increase public resources, accelerate technological innovation, encourage the participation of all sectors in development and generate internal growth momentum. The United Nations and its specialized agencies should help Member States improve their capabilities to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Creating an enabling international environment for development — Countries should pursue peaceful development and work together to maintain regional stability and world peace and security. It is important for all countries to promote a balanced, win-win and inclusive multilateral trading system and to form a fair, reasonable and transparent system of international economic and trading rules, and promote the rational flow of production factors, efficient allocation of resources and deep integration of markets. Efforts should also be made to improve global economic governance, support the equal participation of developing countries and increase their representation and voice, as well as their full participation in global supply chains, industry chains and value chains.

Strengthening development partnerships — The international community should work towards a more equitable and balanced global partnership for development and maintain North-South cooperation as the main channel for development cooperation. Developed countries should honour their official development assistance (ODA) commitments in a timely and adequate manner, scale up their support in terms of capital, technology and capacity-building for developing countries, especially African countries, the least developed countries and small-island developing States. It is important to give full play to technology promotion mechanisms, promote technology development in developing countries and the transfer, spread and promotion of environment-friendly technology to developing countries. The international community should also strengthen South-South cooperation, increase triangular cooperation, and encourage the private sector, civil society, philanthropic groups and other stakeholders to play a bigger role. Efforts should be made to strengthen infrastructure connectivity and international cooperation in industrial capacity to achieve complementarity among countries.

Promoting coordination mechanism — Development policy should be incorporated into global macroeconomic policy coordination so that international economic, financial, trade and investment policies serve development and to ensure the extensive engagement of developing countries in global economic governance and that they receive their fair share of development gains. Efforts should be made to accelerate regional integration and enhance comprehensive regional competitiveness. The role of the United Nations in policy guidance and coordination should be strengthened, and the United Nations development system, specialized agencies, funds and programmes should enhance development resources and use their own advantages to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and advance international development cooperation according to their authorization. The members of the Group of 20 are encouraged to formulate a meaningful and executable collective action plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, so as

to play a leading role in its implementation and to complement the United Nations process.

Improving follow-up and review — The United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development should play a key role in the follow-up and review, and conduct regular reviews of global implementation progress. It will be imperative to strengthen the monitoring of the means of implementation at the international level, comprehensively review development financing, technology transfer and capacity-building with a focus on ODA commitments. Regional cooperation should be encouraged, as well as participation by regional and subregional commissions and organizations. National reviews should be conducted within national policy frameworks and maintain flexibility so that reviews of national implementation will be carried out in accordance with respective national conditions and the principle of voluntary action. The formulation of sustainable development goal indicator frameworks should adhere to the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" and efforts should be made to strengthen statistical capacity-building in developing countries and improve the quality and timeliness of statistical data.

IV. China's way forward

As the largest developing country in the world, China has always given top priority to development. In the coming years, China will seek to coordinate development in the economic, political, cultural, social and ecological fields, guided by a development concept featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, in order to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects in due time. China will pursue innovative development by adopting an innovation-driven strategy and improving the quality and efficiency of development. Coordinated development can be achieved through regional cooperation, urban and rural integration, parallel development of material wealth and spiritual enrichment and integration of economic development with national defines, which will form a balanced structure of development. China will pursue green development by promoting a green and low-carbon development model and lifestyles, actively addressing climate change and protecting ecological systems. China will make great efforts to deepen its opening-up and promote strategic mutual trust, economic and trade cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, thereby achieving win-win cooperation. Shared development should be pursued by highlighting equal opportunity, ensuring basic livelihoods and improving well-being.

China attaches great importance to the 2030 Agenda and has made great efforts for its implementation. The Thirteenth Five-Year Plan was reviewed and approved by the fourth session of the Twelfth National People's Congress in March 2016, linking the 2030 Agenda with domestic mid- and long-term development strategies. Great efforts will be made to publicize the Agenda nationwide in order to mobilize domestic resources and raise public awareness, creating a favourable social environment for its implementation. China will strengthen intersectoral policy coordination and review and revise relevant laws and regulations to provide policy and legislative guarantees for Agenda implementation. A domestic coordination mechanism for the implementation has been established that comprises 43 government departments. China is determined to lift all the 55.75 million rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty within the next five

years, which will mark a significant step forward in China's implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

China will remain open and inclusive and strengthen coordination with all parties to jointly accelerate global implementation. China will formulate national plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and release them in due course. China will take part in the high-level thematic debate on achieving the sustainable development goals in April 2016 and also the voluntary national review during the high-level political forum in July to report on China's implementation progress, exchange development experience with others and listen to their constructive opinions and suggestions.

As the President of the Group of 20 for 2016, China lists promoting inclusive and interconnected development as one of the four key agenda items, which will focus on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is the first time that development issues will be comprehensively integrated into the global macroeconomic policy coordination framework at the summit level, elevating development issues to a prominent position. Together with other Group of 20 members, China will optimize development policy coordination among members and incorporate the 2030 Agenda into the work mechanisms of the Group's annual plan. China is urging members to jointly draft a collective action plan for the 2030 Agenda, to align domestic implementation work with the global process. In addition, China has put a new issue on the Group of 20 agenda to address the industrialization of Africa and other least developed countries, and urges the Group of 20 to actively respond to the demands of developing countries, especially African countries. China will maintain close collaboration with the United Nations to integrate the Group of 20 implementation process with that led by the United Nations. China will also convene outreach dialogues with countries that are not members of the Group of 20, especially developing countries, to ensure that the actions of the Group meet outside expectations. China looks forward to the generation of political driving force and a strong guarantee for the implementation of the Agenda through collective actions of major economies.

China will continue to actively take part in global development cooperation and will make contributions to the best of its capability. China has provided support for more than 120 developing countries while achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In the future, China will deepen South-South cooperation to help other developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. China will implement the measures announced by President Xi Jinping during his attendance at summits marking the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, provide other developing countries with support in financing, technology and capacity-building and provide more public goods for the global development cause. China is making preparations for an assistance fund for South-South Cooperation, which will be put into operation as soon as possible. The Academy of South-South Cooperation and Development will be officially established and start global enrolment in 2016. The Academy will provide developing countries with opportunities for doctoral degree and masters degree education and short-term training and will serve as a platform for exchanging and sharing development experience. China has signed agreements with the United Nations on China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund and will put it into operation in 2016 to raise funds for projects concerning peace and development. China will continue to carry forward its One Belt and One Road Initiative and promote greater roles for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

and the New Development Bank, thus making due contributions to global development.

Looking into the future, China will remain committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and following the road of mutual benefit, win-win cooperation and common development. China stands ready to work with other countries to contribute to the construction of a community of shared destiny and to make unremitting efforts for the realization of the dreams of people across the world.